

arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

A pilot project for the computerisation and networking of all courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai is being taken up in the year 2001-2002 to serve as a model for other courts in the country. Computerisation and networking of courts will augment the capacities of courts in the country and speed up disposal of cases.

Legal Aid to Poor

2446. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present state of affairs in so far as legal aid to poor is concerned;

(b) whether Government have any special scheme to provide speedy legal aid to tribals in the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Free and competent Legal Services to the weaker section of the society is provided in accordance with provisions of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Central Government has constituted National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) which is also called the Central Authority. The Central Authority organizes legal aid camps, especially in rural areas, slums, or labour colonies with the dual purpose of educating the weaker sections of the society as to their rights as well as encouraging the settlement of disputes through Lok Adalat. The Central Authority has also constituted the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

(b) and (c) In terms of Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 a member of Scheduled Tribe is entitled to legal services under the said Act. These legal services are available through Taluk Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities, State Legal Services Authorities, High Court Legal Services Committees and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.